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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORTREPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 17 December 1952

SUBJECT Trepca Mines

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PLACE ACQUIRED SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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Location

1. The mines, smelter, general offices, canteen, engineers club and guest house of the Trepca mines are located at Zvecan on the main road from Belgrade to the south, via Pristina. The mines are about 10 miles from Kraljevac on a very poor road which climbs steeply from Kos Mitrovica.

Production

2. The mines produce 620,000 tons per year which is approximately the same as pre-war production. Recently, however, lower levels of the mines have been worked, and the metal content of the ore is reported to be down approximately 20 per cent.
3. The ore is sent down to the mill at Zvecan by aerial ropeway where the ore is milled and concentrated by flotation, and where the lead is smelted.

Communications

4. Part of the zinc concentrate is sent by rail to smelters in the north. From there, some of the concentrate is shipped together with metallic lead to the ports at Split and Rijeka. There is a long railroad haul to either of these ports, and negotiations are now in progress with the Greek government for free port facilities at Salonika. The Yugoslavs expect these negotiations to be successful and this will reduce transportation costs.
5. The railroad to the south of Zvecan is now in operating condition. The one important bridge on the line was destroyed during the war, but it has been restored.

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Construction

6. It does not appear that there will be any major enlarging of the mines or the milling operations at Trepca; however, the mines expect to benefit considerably from increased zinc smelting facilities which will become available when the new smelting and refining plant at Sabac is completed.
7. There is a large modern concrete building nearing completion next to the general office at Zvecan. It houses a new laboratory.
8. In addition, a large social center for the miners and the staff is being constructed which will provide improved recreational facilities.

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Equipment

9. On the main entrance level of the mines, the hauling is done with electric battery locomotives. Modern dump wagons are used in this hauling. In addition, there is a plan in the experimental stages to extend mechanical loading (slushing) to the stopes.
10. A number of improvements have been made in the flotation processes, but no major changes have taken place in the milling and refining operations.

Labor

11. The labor force is adequate, works reasonably well and appears to be content.

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